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THE OCTOFOIL

Weehawken, N. J. 07087—412 Gregory Ave.

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Association Dues: \$4.00 per year — \$1.50 will be earmarked to pay for The Octofoil.

Volume XXIV - Number 1

Jan - Feb 1969

General Smythe Passes Away

Condolences

General Smythe is survived by his wife, Susie, his son, Lt. Col. John Davis Smythe, now serving in Vietnam, two sisters, and six grandchildren. The General's other son Capt. George W. Smythe Jr., was killed in 1958 after ejecting from a jet fighter near Niceville, Fla.

To the family of General Smythe the Ninth Infantry Division offers its heartfelt sympathy. The editors of the Octofoil are especially saddened by the passing of General Smythe because we both had the honor of serving under him. Whenever we shall think of those days spent in the mountains of Sicily, the hedge-row of Normandy, or on the banks of the Rhine, we shall think fondly of the officer and gentleman who led us through those perilous times.



Appreciates Aid

We have heard from another young man who is a recipient of a Ninth Division Scholarship. Jonathan A. Kocay of Akron, Ohio, is working hard at the University of Akron and he was kind enough to let us know how he is doing. Jonathan says:

"I was a recipient of a Ninth Infantry Division Scholarship which is now helping pay my tuition at the University of Akron. I sincerely appreciate this financial aid and I am striving to prove myself worthy of your faith.

"At Akron University I am on a tri-semester or quarter system. My mark at the end of the first quarter was 2.9, with a 4 point being an "A" overall. This quarter which began January 6th is progressing rather well for me. I hope to better my first quarter mark considerably.

"My tentative is my major, Electrical Engineering, the next few years will be rather interesting. As far as my choice of schools goes, I have absolutely no regrets. Last quarter I was out for varsity wrestling, but a tendon in my foot became inflamed and prevented me from continuing."

Jon is really carrying a full schedule but he has found time to join a fraternity and intends to run for the Student Council. It is gratifying to know that he is doing so well and we are glad that the Association was able to help him.



Major General George W. Smythe, U.S.A. First President of the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

Letter From Your President

First of all I would like to extend to all members and their families my very best wishes in the coming year.

During the Holidays I received a very nice letter from the commander of the Ninth Division in Vietnam, General J. Ewell in which he extends his very best wishes to all of you. If you were watching your televisions on Thursday January 16 I'm sure that you recognized the Ninth Infantry Division patch on the soldiers watching the Bob Hope Christmas show. They deserve our very best wishes and prayers.

The sad news of General Smythe's death came to the attention of the Association too late for me to make plans to attend. On behalf of the members I have sent a short note to Mrs. Smythe expressing the sympathies of all members of the Association on the departure of our past President and a wonderful man.

Your President has kept a close relationship by mail and phone with Dan Quinn and Walter O'Keeffe in connection with our Reunion in Pittsburgh this summer. Both these men have done a fine job especially being so remote from Pittsburgh. The hotel at Chatham Center is all signed up and the program book started so now it's up to all members to pitch in and help. This issue of the Octofoil has two forms to be filled out. One is for reservations at the hotel. Do not wait until the last minute (this will only give your reunion committee a heart attack). Remember it is easier to cancel a reservation than to make one. Send those forms in today, please. The other form is for an AD in the program book. The profits from this book can either break or make a reunion. You do not have to own a business to take out an AD. Please, whether it be a small or large donation send in the AD forms. Thank you.

I recently received a letter from Bob Mason (26 F.A.) who resides in McKeesport, Pa. and is on the Reunion Committee. Bob writes that he has contacted local and Pittsburgh papers in regard to our meeting down there next summer.

Remember this is your Association. Please help and support it. See you in Pittsburgh!

Herb Olsen - G. Co. 47th Inf.
389 Highland Ave.
Randolph, Mass.

Commanded 47th Infantry First President Of Association

Another great Ninth Infantry Division soldier has passed on to his eternal reward. Major General George W. Smythe suffered a heart attack on January 16, 1969, and died at the Ft. Myer post clinic. From June 1943 until March 1945 General Smythe, then a Colonel, commanded the 47th Infantry Regiment.

While under his command the 47th Infantry fought its greatest battles and achieved its finest victories. General Smythe led the "Raiders" to many firsts - first into Cherbourg, first into the Siegfried Line, and first complete regiment across the Rhine. The 47th's great fighting spirit reflected the courage and determination of its Commander. The General's first concern was always for his men - whether it was weapons, rations, or quarters he always wanted them to have the best. The men of the 47th appreciated his efforts. The fact that, while under his command, units of the 47th earned five Distinguished Unit Citations (Presidential) proves that the "Raiders" were willing to "put out" for the Colonel.

West Pointer

General Smythe was born in Norristown, Pa., and studied at West Chester State College and Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania before entering the U.S. Military Academy in 1920.

As quarterback on the West Point team for four years he was voted the best all-around athlete in his class of 1924. In 1922 he was selected as a member of Walter Camp's All-American second team. During his last year at West Point he was elected President of his class.

Saw World War II Begin

After leaving West Point he had assignments at Ft. Benning, Ga., Staunton Military Academy, Va., Ft. Wright, Wash., Ft. Leavenworth, Kans., and in Panama. At the outbreak of World War II General Smythe was serving as operations officer of the 27th Regiment which was stationed in Hawaii.

Later he served with the International Division which was connected with Lend Lease and supply services in Africa. From that assignment he went to the 47th Infantry Regiment.

Decorated Often

He was awarded the Silver Star for action at Cherbourg, in which he was wounded, and the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in defying artillery and mortar shells to knock out an 88-millimeter gun in Belgium. He also was awarded the Silver Star with Oak Leaf cluster, the Bronze Star, and the Legion of Merit, as well as foreign decorations from France, Great Britain, Belgium, Korea, and Nationalist China.

During the German Breakthrough in December 1944, he was credited with playing a major role in saving the vital communications center

at Eupen, Belgium. By organizing what was essentially a new division from American units that had been smashed in the breakthrough, he was able to keep Eupen out of enemy hands.

Promoted to General

Promoted to brigadier general in 1945 he later served as chief of staff of the 3rd Army and as an assistant division commander in Germany. During the Korean War he commanded the 24th Infantry Division and the 3rd Infantry Division. He also served as deputy commander of the 2nd Army and was chief of the U.S. military advisory assistance group in Taiwan, and was an adviser to Chiang Kai-shek. He retired in 1957.

First President

After World War II although he was still on active duty, General Smythe still kept in contact with his old comrades. When the Ninth Infantry Division Association was formed he took an active part in writing its constitution and by-laws. His contributions to the Association were so great the members thought it only fitting that he should serve as the Association's first President. In 1945 at the First Annual Reunion he was elected President and went on to set an example that succeeding Presidents are still trying to emulate.



★THE OCTOFOIL★

Forms 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATE EDITORS Walter O'Keeffe & Daniel Quinn

HERBERT OLSEN, President, Randolph, Mass. 02368
VINCENT GUGLIELMINO, 1st Vice President, Floral Park, N.Y. 11001
CHARLES KOSKIE, 2nd Vice President, Schiller Park, Illinois 60176
WILLIAM MEADOWS, 3rd Vice President, Detroit, Michigan 48219
HARRISON DAYSH, Judge Advocate, Kensington, Maryland 20795
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The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$4.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$4.00 earmarked for six issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J., of any change in address.
Published six times yearly, July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.
An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."
Copy must be received on or before the 10th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th. Photographs must be received on or before the 5th day of publication month.
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Jan - Feb 1969

Volume XXIVNumber 1

Reunion Plans A-OK

The 1969 Reunion is going to be one of the best. Chatham Center will be an ideal headquarters for our Association. Its many attractions will guarantee you a good time while attending the reunion. Without leaving the premises you can enjoy a swim, a sauna bath; a work-out in the gym, or if your tastes run to less strenuous activities you can take in a first rate movie at the theater which is located within the center. If you get your kicks out of sightseeing, you will feel right at home. Chatham Center is only a five-minute walk from the Golden Triangle, and many historic places are adjacent to the center. Pittsburgh's new Civic Auditorium is across the road and during the summer time there is always something doing at the auditorium. Pittsburgh's shopping district is just around the corner and the ladies will have a ball window shopping. This reunion is one you can't afford to miss, so make your reservations early, a reservation blank appears in this issue of the Octofoil. Fill it out and get ready to join the gang at Pittsburgh. Don't forget parking is free and the parking area is within the center. You can park your car and take an elevator direct to your room.

Bob Mason, McKeesport, Pa. is going all out in his efforts to spread the word about the 1969 reunion. He has contacted many of his buddies and is trying to get them to Pittsburgh for the big doings.

General Westmoreland To Speak At Reunion Banquet



The reunion committee has just released the wonderful news that General William C. Westmoreland will speak at the reunion banquet. It's been seven years since we last had this honor. In 1962 the General addressed the Association at Ft. Bragg, N.C., shortly afterwards he left for Vietnam. In the interim he has brilliantly led the American forces fighting in that country. Last year after his return to the states he assumed the post of Army Chief of Staff. Every "Old Reliable" takes pride in the General's achievements and when he steps to the podium on July 26, 1969, we all will throw out our chest and say proudly, "He is one of us."

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASS'N.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, Natl. Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.,
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087

Enclosed please find 1969 dues for:

NameSerial No.

Street Address

CityZoneState

I was a member of:

Battery; Company; Regiment9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year\$ 4.00

Three-Year Member\$11.00

LIFE MEMBERSHIP\$50.00

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund

Octofoil Automobile License Disc\$.50

Decals 25c; (5) five for\$ 1.00

"Eight Stars to Victory"
(Pictorial History of 9th Division in action.)\$ 2.00

Ladies' Auxiliary Member\$ 1.50

Combat Route Map\$.50

60th Infantry History\$.50

Please give credit to the following Chapter:

Philly-Delaware ValleyGreater New York

IllinoisWashington, D.C.

New EnglandMichigan

OhioFayetteville-Fort Bragg, N.C.

Tip of the Hat

Many thanks to Aaron Alpert and Sal Cuzzillo for remembering the Scholarship Fund and our apology to James Tomaso for misspelling his name in last issue of the Octofoil.

Returns To North Africa

Roy D. Code is traveling a route that he first traveled many years ago. He writes to the Octofoil from North Africa.

"Enclosed is a picture of me standing by a road sign in Eastern Algeria, it may bring back some not-so-fond memories to some of the fellows.

"You can tell by the big coat and the humped up way I am standing that it was almost as cold as it was the day that Overton, Juzinsky, and I went down the same road in an open Jeep. Luckily, I am using a little different type of transportation this time.

"In the near future as time permits, I have plans to go on over into Tunisia on a trip which I hope will include Gafsa, El Guettar, Bizerte, Sedjeanne, and like places. More photos will be forthcoming after that.

"Best regards to everyone, and especially to the 47th Infantry, and even more specifically to the Second Battalion."

Roy didn't say why he was in North Africa, whether it is a pleasure trip or a business venture. However, he did give an address so maybe he intends to be in that part of the world for some time.

Taps Sounded

Al Geist gave us the sad news that John W. S. DeMars passed away. John joined H Co. of the 39th Inf. in England and served with the regiment until almost the end of the war. He lived in St. Matthews, S.C. and was a Lt. Colonel in the South Carolina National Guard.

We have just learned that Horace West died last July 1. Horace joined the Ninth in 1940 and served with Hq. Co. 60th Inf. Later on he became a Warrant Officer and went with one of the Battalions. He resided in Leesville, La. He is survived by his widow who resides at 2100 Miriam St., Leesville, La. 71446

Shall We Return ?

How often have you said to your family, when you told your war stories:

"One of these days I must take you over there and show you the places I have been." Here is your chance. For the commemoration of our 25th Anniversary of the Association, we have drawn up an itinerary for a 2 or 3 week trip, which will take us to England and the continent, which follows the advance of the "Old Reliabilities" as close as possible.

We will be seeing the sights of London and also have an overnight stay in Winchester to renew old friendships. Then we cross the Channel and land "again" in France, but this time in Cherbourg. Remember St. Mere-Eglise, The Hedgerows, St. Lo, The Beaches, Argentan? You will see all these places again and this time we will make sure that the division will stop in Paris (9th MP's Please Note: No off limits signs permitted on this trip.)

After saying au revoir to Paris we will proceed via Chateau-Thierry and Reims (after all we will have to sample the champagne) and on to Dinant: who can ever forget the heights above Dinant and the cost the Division had to pay to capture them. We will stop for some R&R in Brussels and then continue our advance eastward through Liege - Eupe - Monschau - Simmerath - Schmidt - Schwammenauer Damm - Nideggen - Zulpich - Euskirchen and finally we will stand again on the west side of the Rhine at Remagen and look across to the heights above Erpel and Linz. In our minds we see the bridge that once stood there and think of our comrades we left there. Only the towers and pillars of the Ludendorff Bridge are left standing as a mute memorial of the crossing. This time we will have to cross by ferry, then eastward again to the city they would not let us capture, Berlin. We will see the infamous wall and even cross at "Checkpoint Charley". We will have a look at Eastern Europe and after Berlin we will turn south. On the way we will pass the area along the Mulde River, where we finished the war. You will see Dessau and Bitterfeld from the train window as we move to our occupation area. After an overnight stop in Nuremberg, we will move along the "Romantic Road" via Rothenburg, Augsburg to Ingolstadt the birthplace of our association and then proceed along the Autobahn to Munich, from there we will return home.

That's it in a nutshell. The whole itinerary will be published very shortly in the Octofoil along with the cost estimates.

If you have any ideas on the places or people we should see, please contact our secretary Danny Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N. J., and we will see if we can incorporate your suggestions.



1969 Reunion
July 24-25-26
Pittsburgh

THE PAWNS OF WAR

by WILLIAM M. KREYE

LOUIS MATUSZEWSKI, who we called MATI, was a more forward, venturesome fellow with a "Savoir-faire" for military obedience when situations became tough. He had been a platoon sergeant before coming to our section and, no doubt, he was a good one. He was a tremendous aide to the Intelligence Section. MATI had one phobia which occurred when the outfit went into garrison and things were peaceful, the urge to go astray on unwarranted furloughs.

No doubt, the bitterness, the confusion, and the hardship of the battle can best be illustrated by virtue of the action of Lt. CHARLES SCHEFFEL's patrol. The lieutenant had joined the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry on November 21, 1942 near Algiers as a replacement officer. He joined "B" Company and he became familiar with an enlisted man named "ERNIE" EATON. SCHEFFEL always refers to "ERNIE" as the bravest man he ever knew.

The lieutenant revealed that "ERNIE" was made mortar squad leader and he proved to be one of the finest soldiers that he ever knew. At El Guettar, SCHEFFEL transferred to "A" Company, 39th and near the end of the battle, he was ordered to lead a combat patrol against the main objective of Hill 772. As volunteers were plentiful in these days, twelve men volunteered to go along from "A" Company. He was quick to realize that the patrol with himself consisted of thirteen men. Intelligence had informed him that the position was held by Italians who would probably fight bitterly if opposed by British troops but who might surrender to the Americans. By some chance, SCHEFFEL's patrol had to pass through "B" Company positions and it passed "ERNIE's" position. After a welcome exchange of greetings, SCHEFFEL jokingly remarked that "ERNIE" should join the patrol to change the unlucky number of thirteen to fourteen. By unexpectedly surprise, "ERNIE" joined the patrol.

However, as the patrol advanced at night and carefully advanced beyond the enemy's outpost positions, Corporal PIATO challenged the enemy in Italian to surrender but the enemy heavily entrenched were Germans. The element of initial surprise was gone to take advantage of the enemy. The patrol was chewed up with machine gun and mortar fire although the Americans did retaliate with grenades and rifle fire of their own while in a deadly trap. What happened to "ERNIE"? At the time, he might have been wounded, killed or captured. But, now we know that he was probably killed in the first bursts from the German machine guns. SCHEFFEL refers to him as a man's man. Only four on the patrol survived, SCHEFFEL the most fortunate with just a fingernail blown off, a fellow named WOODRUF, another with leg injuries and a fourth with his jaw blown off.



Gun Crew Alert, El Guettar, Tunisia

Around this time Captain AGNEW commanded "A" Company and Captain OSCAR THOMPSON had "B" Company. CONRAD ANDERSON commanded "C" Company and on one occasion as I had again the delight to be a guard outside of the 1st Battalion command post tent, he passed by enroute to see the battalion commander. We exchanged greetings in a few seconds as the captain wanted to get in to transact his business and get back to his company. When CONRAD came out moments later, I saw a trickle of blood running down his leg and I asked ANDERSON if he was badly hurt? He answered in the negative and said that he had no time now to visit the medics. However, MARTIN KRASOVETZ told me later as he had overheard the conversation in the command post that the captain requested the Intelligence Section transferred to his command. It was a mighty fine pat on the back for my group.

It was on the eleventh day after I had made three rations trips over the hills that I realized that the battle was nearing its end. A supply truck arrived with the 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry, S-4. It was FRANK WADE, lieutenant United States Army. Incidentally, FRANK had done a bang-up job.

There were two fellows that I knew from the old neighborhood back home. One fellow gave his life, NICK MILAZZO, younger brother of WILLIE MILAZZO, with whom I played as a young lad. The other, a wounded man, JOE BOTTIGLIERS from the old gang from the 19th Street and 7th Avenue corner. Both were members of the Ninth Infantry Division. There were many that would be missed such as killed in action, JOHN SHEA of the 47th Infantry. The 60th Infantry neared the "Go-Devil" objective of Maknassey which was taken so gallantly. Back in the states there were people dying as usual from natural causes, but being so young such as my cousin, CLARABELLE was very distressing.

Hill 772 and all other objectives were finally taken. The 9th Reconnaissance Troop had contacted MONT-

GOMERY's advanced elements. Many lessons were learned such as to smother an enemy hill with artillery before the infantry moved in. The troops that endured were not green anymore. They were seasoned veterans who had learned the hard way and from now on would make fewer mistakes.

Chapter 14 THE SEDJENANE VALLEY Time: April 1943

Unit: 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, part of the American 2nd Corps., United States Army.

Scene: Defensive Positions

Africa was a peculiar country. It was exceptionally warm in the daylight and chilly at night. Personnel in the 1st Battalion Intelligence Section will change very rapidly from now on because the work will be dangerous, rough on endurance and there will be casualties. Lt. STANTON replaced Lt. BROMLEY as the S-2 officer.

The entire 9th Infantry Division moved from southern Tunisia to the extreme northern flank bordering the Mer Sea. By April 13th, the relief of the British would be underway. The 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry occupied a few ridges near Sedjenane in defensive positions with the Goums to our north. The Goums were turbaned tribesmen who were part of the Corps Franc D'Afrique who fought with their comrades the British, French and Americans. The 39th Infantry Regiment relieved the 1st Parachute Brigade of the British 1st Army. They had no contact with the enemy, nor had they seen any for days.

It was the intent of the British 1st Army to give this northern sector to the 9th Infantry Division because the terrain was very bad for an offensive. And, as proven before, this was the sector referred to as the Green Bald Hills area which the Axis occupied for a long time with everlasting success against the British 1st Army. The British 1st Army planned to capture Bizerte as the British 8th Army took Tunis with the Americans and the French attacking along with the British offensive and

drawing many of the Axis forces away from the British. However, the objectives were not changed but the American 1st Infantry Division and 34th plus the 1st Armoured Division were put in south of the 9th leaving a gap of several miles between outfits. This situation annoyed General MANTON S. EDDY but Major General OMAR N. BRADLEY who became the 2nd Corps commander assured EDDY that the enemy will be too busy to take advantage of the opening. The 9th commanded by EDDY and the entire 2nd Corps under BRADLEY will prove to be a combination which the Allies needed.

We, the 1st Battalion Intelligence Section, consisting of MATI, STANLEY CABAN, BILL SOLIDAY, I and a few others, occupied a comparatively small hill compared with the mountains to our north, south and to our immediate front. This little hill was in the center of the valley all by itself. At this time our position was about a mile in front of our line companies who occupied a few small ridges to our rear. We occupied this position for six days as elements of the 9th gradually took over the sector.

I will describe some of the activities of the Intelligence Section during those six days when military reports say nothing was happening at the front. I realized upon occupying this position and although no enemy was sighted that he was here somewhere. If he was in these huge mountains and I figured that he was, that he could look down our necks. I instructed all my men not to move a muscle during the daylight hours. We set up a french spy-glass and we camouflaged ourselves and the equipment. Through the spy-glass we scanned the mountains and we watched an Arab shack which stood to our immediate front at the base of our hill. There was a small child playing in the dirt alongside the shack.

At night we split up into two groups to listen for sounds of enemy patrols north and south of our hill. We listened because we couldn't see very far in the dark. We installed a telephone with the wire extending through the forward line company positions to the battalion command post. We ate cole "C" rations which was not a new procedure and we buried the cans. It was shortly later that we were running out of rations but I had arranged with RAY BALDWIN and HARRY PAVLUK who were left at the command post to bring out our rations via mule at night. They didn't show up. The second night I called via phone to check if they had left. They had started out all right but a stubborn mule prevented delivery. The third night they were going to carry the supplies on their backs but after a few hours they still didn't arrive at our outpost. I decided to call again but to my surprise the phone was dead.

We had to trace the wire line and I asked for a volunteer to accompany me on my journey. I explained to MATI who volunteered that the best way to inspect the wire and to make time would be to hold the wire between finger tips. As the wire slid through the fingers and if a break or notch was detected, for that man to stop and inspect it while the other man took over the lead. The lead changed several times because of nicks in the wire. We had been underway sometime when MATI happened to be leading and he suddenly disappeared. He had stepped into a hole which was about six foot deep and just wide enough for his body to fit into. There was just the right amount of water in the hole for it to come up to his chest. He was hopeless and I had a tough time getting hit out but that I did. Was it just a coincidence that a hole that size existed? Or, had it been made to trap a single man patrol? I never could answer that question.

(continued next issue)

THE MEMORIAL FUND OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Scholarship Information

The Memorial Fund of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was established by the members of the association to commemorate the memory of their comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in battle. As a part of this fund the association established a scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded each year to relatives of men who served in The Ninth Infantry Division. Each scholarship is for one year.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A person who wishes to apply for a scholarship must be related to a man who served with The Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat given first preference. Applicants who are not children of former members of the division will not be considered unless no child of a former member qualifies.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedures must be followed by those wishing to apply for the scholarships:

1. Send a letter of application, written in expository form, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following: name, address, age, and sex of the applicant; name, address, and occupation of the applicant's parents or guardians; the name and address of the secondary school the applicant is attending or has attended and graduated; the name and address of the college the applicant expects to attend; the vocational goal of the applicant; and the name of and degree of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and dates of service in the division of the former member must be included.
2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include at least the first seven semesters of the applicant's record.
3. The applicant must have a counselor or principal of the high school he or she is attending write a letter of recommendation to the chairman of the scholarship committee.
4. The applicant must take the PSAT which is given every October. The applicant must see that the results of the PSAT are sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee. These results may be included with the high school transcript or sent to the chairman from the College Entrance Examination Board. The SAT of the CEEB may be submitted in lieu of the PSAT.
5. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
6. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
7. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
8. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, a financial statement, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.
9. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, 901 Graceland St., Des Plaines, Illinois 60018.

MAIL CALL

Here are a few samples from this month's mailbag.

Unfortunately all the news we receive isn't good. This month we received word that Hugh Hanson had suffered a stroke. His wife writes that he is making progress but will be hospitalized for some time. A letter from his old buddies will brighten his days, so why not drop him a line at 321 Warden Ave., Glendale, Calif. 91203.

John P. Mrugala of Barnesboro, Pa. sent us Christmas greetings and inquired about the reunion. John intends to join the gang in Pittsburgh and will bring his wife and the children.

Tom Orband and his better half are soaking up the sun in Florida. They sent us a card and it arrived just when the thermometer was at 20 degrees. We sure envy the idle rich who can go south and duck the icy Northern winters.

George Berday, Washington, D.C. sent in his dues for 1969 and wrote as follows.

"This year I have been in Walter Reed so often that it seems like it's my home. Ruth and I are just getting over the bug. I hope the next year will be better than this one. Sure hope we can make it to the next reunion. I see the old patch just about everytime I go to Reed. It sure looks good."

This year A.T. Forrest of the 15th Engineers didn't get around to sending out Christmas cards and he wants his friends to know why.

A.T. writes that, due to a general uprooting as he changed jobs at the beginning of the holiday season, together with the ensuing problem of selling his house in Beaver and finding a new one, he had to forego the sending out of cards this year.

He has ended his affiliation with Crucible Steel Corp., via the early retirement route, and has joined the Mueller Brass Co. in Port Huron, Mich. as Vice-President, Engineering. He will relocate as soon as he sells his home in Beaver and finds a suitable one in Port Huron. Meanwhile, it's motel living for A.T.

Occasionally the mailbag contains a letter that makes our day seem a little bit brighter. Last month the mailman delivered one of these letters. It was from Miss Doris Tepper and she wrote as follows:

"I am the sister of Chaplain Irving Tepper who served with 'his boys' from Ft. Bragg to France, where he gave his life.

"Through the kindness of the Ninth Division Association I have been receiving the Octofoil all these years. I'm proud of the new paper and was proud of the old. I wish to keep on receiving the paper, so please note my new address at the top of my letter.

"My sincerest regards to all 'the boys' of the Ninth Infantry Division." Should any of Chaplain Tepper's 'boys' want to write Miss Tepper her new address is 1626 N. Pinsettia Pl., Los Angeles, Calif. 90048

Frank Gonzol has been out spreading the word about the Ninth Infantry Division Association and he signed up a new member. He signed up John Burkhalter a former member of the 47th Infantry.

**1969 Reunion
July 24-25-26**

Melvin O. Jaggi, Verona, Wisc. and his wife dropped us a line. They had this to say:

"Enclosed is a check for three years membership. We both enjoy reading the Octofoil and would like to hear from more of the 60th Field Artillery, Btry A.

"We have had the pleasure of visits from the George Wenshuton family and Mike Belmonte family over the past years. We would like so much to come to the reunion, but this busy life of farming keeps us pretty much at home.

"Hope to hear from some old comrades."

Editor's Note - to Mel - Get after George, he's fallen among the back-sliders.

Verne Hunter, Pittsburgh, Pa. writes:

"I had good intentions last summer after seeing my old buddies from F Co., John Rizzo and Charlie Koskie at your business meeting in the Pittsburgh Hilton, but failed to send in my application for membership.

"Today I received a copy of the Sept.-Oct. Octofoil from my old pal George King, with the headlines 'Pittsburgh Dates Set'. You made a great choice in picking the Chatham Center for headquarters. Believe me everyone will like what they see. You really got a good deal."

Everett H. Spink, Lockport, N.Y. wants to hear from his old friends. He writes:

"I am still at the same old stand in Lockport working for the Telephone Co. I hope to make a convention one of these days and check up on some of the other Signal Co. fellows.

"I visited Sid Schriber who is in Greensboro, N. C. last summer, he was in the message center. He runs into a few fellows around that area. This Christmas I received quite a few cards from fellows from the 9th Signal."

Editor's Note - Everett, keep after Sid, maybe you can get him back in the fold - the association.

A. B. Casey, 715 Walnut Street, Paris, Tenn. writes:

"Attached is check for 1969 dues. I was very much interested in the article about Brig. Gen. Frank L. Gunn in the last issue of the Octofoil. He was Lt. Col. when I last heard of him, that was in Schrobenhausen, Bavaria. He was an excellent officer.

"Best wishes for the coming year and a good year for the Association."

Louis A. Craig, Maj. Gen. Ret. 3700 Fordham Rd., Washington, D.C. pens the following note:

"Dear Dan: The end of each succeeding year seems to affect me with increasing velocity. This being my congratulations to you for the fine Octofoil that continues its traditional course.

"Best to you and the men of the Ninth."

Editors note - Thank you General. Through the Association we really got to know many men we served with and under. Knowing the General has been one of our greatest pleasures. O'Keeffe and I were two 'yardbirds' from the 47th., and never did much elbow rubbing with the top brass.

"I have eight children and I've just found out my husband has never really loved me," said the distraught woman to her lawyer.

"There, there, my dear," said the attorney. "Just imagine the fix you'd be in today if he had!"

Sound Off

Don't be bashful, sound-off, let everyone know how proud you are to be an "Old Reliable." Take an ad in the reunion journal.

Each year the reunion committee publishes a journal. This book is one of the few tangible mementos that we take away from the reunion. With each passing year the journals from past reunions become more treasured mementos. They remind us of the happy times that were had at these get-togethers.

Some members will be unable to get to Pittsburgh. They can still participate in the reunion by taking an ad in the journal. This way you can let your friends know that you are still around and kicking. If you have your own business why not include the journal in your advertising budget, you will get good coverage and we can use the loot.

Ads come in all sizes, if you feel like making a big noise you can take a full page, if you want to be more sedate you can become a booster. All we want you to do is to get your name into the reunion journal. A blank for journal ads is published in this issue, fill it out and send it along, all requests will be acknowledged.

Joe Uschak Takes Office

President Joe Uschak's first membership meeting on Feb. 7, 1969, began auspiciously with the lively participation and cooperation of the New York Chapter members. The traditionally social functions and other events had smooth sailing. Thirty-eight members heard the President announce the 1969 program that had been adopted and recommended by the Board of Governors.

The March meeting will be a regular business meeting held at the Armory on 26th and Lexington Avenues, however, the April meeting may be moved to another site for a special night - The Past President's Night. This affair is well-attended by Past Presidents of the Chapter and Pat Morano, who now lives in Pennsylvania makes the trip for the night.

In May, the members will attend Mons. DeLaura's Memorial Mass and Services and then make the trip to Pinelawn National Cemetery to pay our respects at the grave sites of those who wore the Octofoil.

June will find "the gang" at the annual picnic held in New Jersey. This is one of the largest turnouts of the year for members and their families.

July is the National Reunion and the New Yorkers will be well represented. Guggy and Jack Scully promised to show the members a few fancy dives off the high board at the swimming pool.

September will be a regular business meeting followed in October by the annual Fall Dance.

November a business meeting and then the trip to Worcester for Father Connors Memorial Mass and Services.

December business meeting and Christmas Party.

The business end of the meeting completed the members put on the "feed bags" and enjoyed themselves.

Sincerely yours,
Harry Orenstein
(Outgoing President)
901 Walton Avenue
Bronx, New York 10452

Editors note - Harry included his new address.

A gourmet is the kind of man who is invited for an evening of wine, women, and song - and asks what kind of wine.

THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

IS YOUR OCTOFOIL

ADDRESSED WITH

TELL-TALE RED INK?

It means you are about to be placed on the delinquent list and this will be your last issue of the Octofoil until dues are paid. If you are among the back sliders get on the ball and send your membership to the secretary's office, Dan Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. 07087

PAY
1969
DUES
NOW

PAY
1969
DUES
NOW

REQUEST FOR SPACE IN SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Attached is copy for an ad in the color-printed 1969 Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion Program.

Full page	\$25.00
half page	\$15.00
quarter page	\$10.00
one eighth page	\$ 5.00

Booster ads - \$1.00 name and unit.

Send all copy, checks and money orders to: Pittsburgh Reunion Committee, P. O. Box 483, Union City, N. J. 07087.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

ROOM RESERVATIONS
1969 REUNION, PITTSBURGH, PA.
Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, at Chatham Center

Please reserve.....Room(s) of the type (x) below:
Completely Air Conditioned - Color TV
Arrival Date.....A.M.....P.M. Departure Date.....

Name

Address

City.....State.....Zip Code.....

Singles	\$14.00
Twins	\$18.00
Suites, Parlor, Bedroom, 2 Baths	\$50.00
Rollaway Beds	\$4.00

FREE PARKING - FREE ICE - FAMILY PLAN

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LADIES' AUXILIARY of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Tippie Plunkett, Secretary-Treasurer
Ninth Infantry Division Association Ladies' Auxiliary
286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206

I would like to become a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. I enclosed is check or money order for \$1.50 for 1969 dues. Please mail my membership card to--

Name

Street

City

While attached to the 9th Infantry Division my.....
(state relationship, whether the Ninth Division man was a husband, father, brother, son, etc.)

was with

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to Secretary-Treasurer Tippie Plunkett, 286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206. A 1969 countersigned membership card will be sent immediately.